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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/663,833

09/17/2003

Kenichi Manabe

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09/10/2007

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EXAMINER

MCCOMMAS, BRENDAN N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2609

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/10/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/663,833	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MANABE ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Brendan N. McCommas	<b>Art Unit</b> 2609	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. **Claims 1-10** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Tobinaga Hideki (Japanese Patent Publication 11-14139).

3. **Regarding claim 1**, Hideki discloses a sheet feeding apparatus comprising:

4. a sheet supporting portion on which a sheet is placed (Figure 1, item 4, where the manuscript tray is considered a sheet supporting portion; also see [0014]);

5. feeding means, provided above said sheet-supporting portion, for coming into and out of contact with the sheet placed on said sheet supporting portion, and for feeding out the sheet. (Figure 1, where pickup roller 10 is the feeding means which is positioned above the sheet supporting means 4);

6. a separating portion for separating the sheet fed out by said feeding means and feeding the sheet one by one (Figure 1, items 11-12);

7. regulating means provided between said separation portion and said feeding means (Figure 1, item 14) and movable between a regulating position in which said regulating means regulates the sheet placed on said sheet supporting portion coming to said separating portion before a feeding operation by said feeding means and retracted

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position in which said regulating means does not hamper the feeding of the sheet during the feeding operation of said feeding means (also see [0015]) ;

8. interlocking means (120), for moving said regulating means to said retracted position in operative association with the movement of said feeding means to a feeding position in which said feeding means is in contact with the sheet when said feeding means feeds out the sheet, and moving said regulating means to said regulating position in operative association with the movement of said feeding means to a feeding stop position in which said feeding means is out of contact with the sheet; and

9. a movable holding member (23), for holding said feeding means for rotation and for brining said feeding means into and out of contact with the sheet, wherein said interlocking means includes a first link member movable in operative association with the movement of said holding member, and a second link member to thereby move said regulating means to said regulating position or said retracted position. (also see [0023] and figures 3-4).

10. **Regarding claim 2**, Hideki discloses, everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1), in addition Hideki discloses a first link member (40) with a cam shape. which moves against a second link member (42a) where an amount of movement of said regulating means is varied by the cam shape. (see Figure 7, and [0026]).

11. **Regarding claim 3**, Hideki discloses, everything claimed as applied above (see claim 2), in addition Hideki discloses a pickup driving member (33), which rotates centering on a driving shaft (34), and a cam will push up on the pickup roller (10) through the rocking member (35) and will move the pickup roller in order to ensure that

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the pickup roller and the stopper claw are set at a correct height ( $H > h$ ), and reads on claimed "guide member", disclosed in [0061], and exhibited in figure 3.

12. **Regarding claim 4**, Hideki discloses, everything claimed as applied above (see claim 3), in addition Hideki discloses that his automatic manuscript transport device is connected to image formation equipment, comprising:

13. a reading means(6) which his arranged under contact glass (2) and reads on claimed image reading means, as disclosed in [0014], and exhibited in figure 1.

14. a separation/feeding means (5) which conveys the separated transcript to the reading means, and reads on claimed original feeder, as disclosed in paragraph [0014], and exhibited in figure 1.

15. **Regarding claim 5**, Hideki discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 4), in addition claim 5 is interpreted and thus rejected for the reasons set forth above in the rejection of claim 2.

16. **Regarding claim 6**, Hideki discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 5), in addition claim 6 is interpreted and thus rejected for the reasons set forth above in the rejection of claim 3.

17. **Regarding claim 7**, Hideki discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 6), in addition Hideki discloses a closing motion covering (103), which can open and close and is formed with the separation/feeding means and reads on claimed "openable and closable cover," as disclosed in [0051-0052] and exhibited in figure 1.

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18. **Regarding claim 8**, Hideki discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 7), in addition Hideki discloses a spring (43) which restrains the gearing (23) and reads on claimed, "restraining portion", as disclosed in [0027] and figures 3-4.

19. **Regarding claim 9**, Hideki discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 8), in addition Hideki discloses that the closing motion covering (103) opens on top of the separating portion (12) and reads on claimed "openable and closable cover," as disclosed in [0051-0052] and figure 1.

20. **Regarding claim 10**, Hideki discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claims 4-9), in addition Hideki discloses an image forming portion for forming an image on the basis of image information read by said image reading means, as disclosed in [0001].

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brendan N. McCommas whose telephone number is 571-270-3575. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (alternate F off) 7:30 am -5 pm EST.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jefferey Harold can be reached on 571-272-7519. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

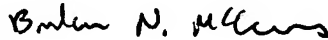
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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Brendan N McCommas  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2609

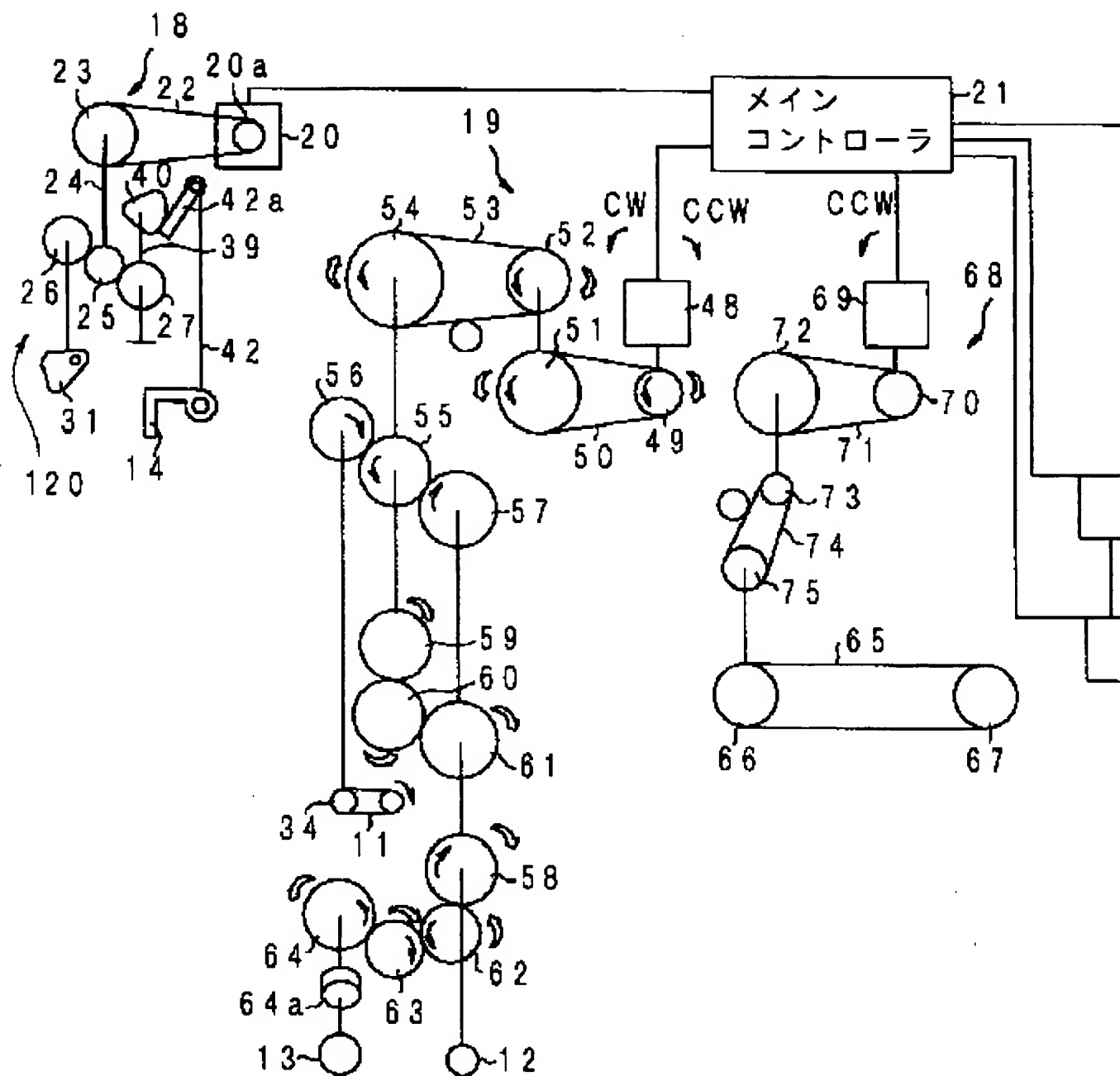
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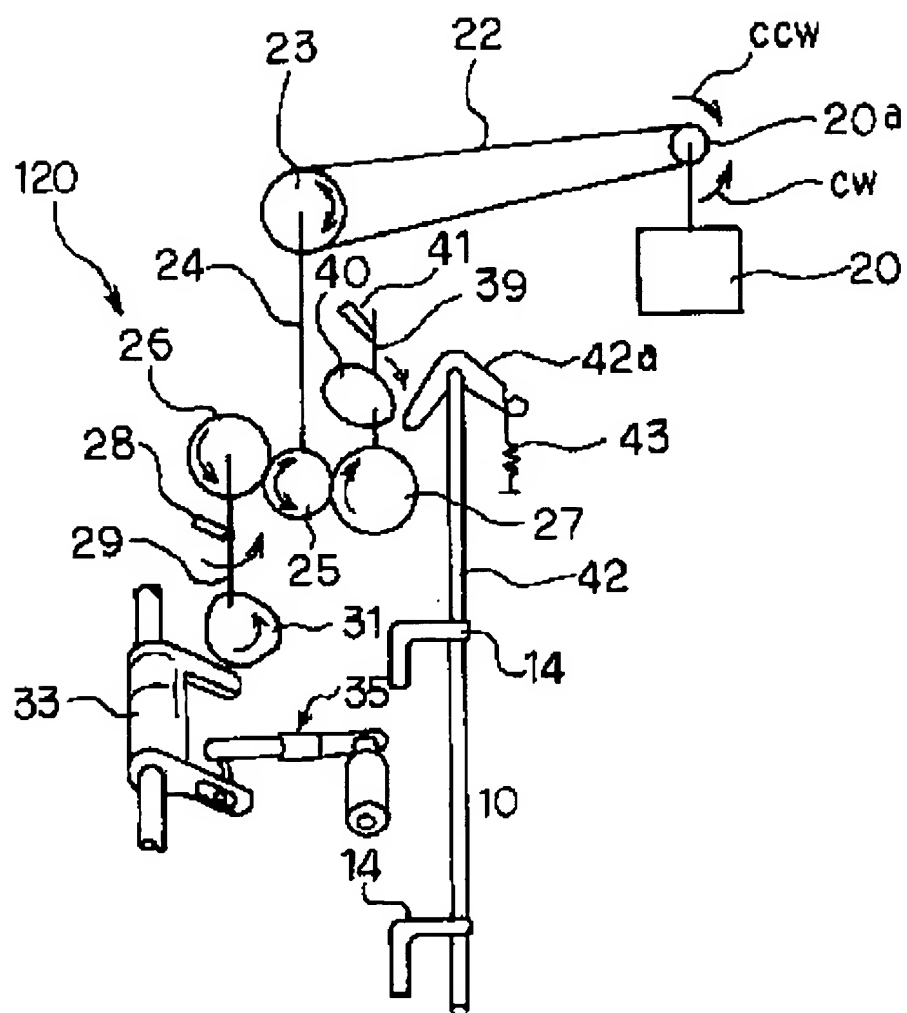
  
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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

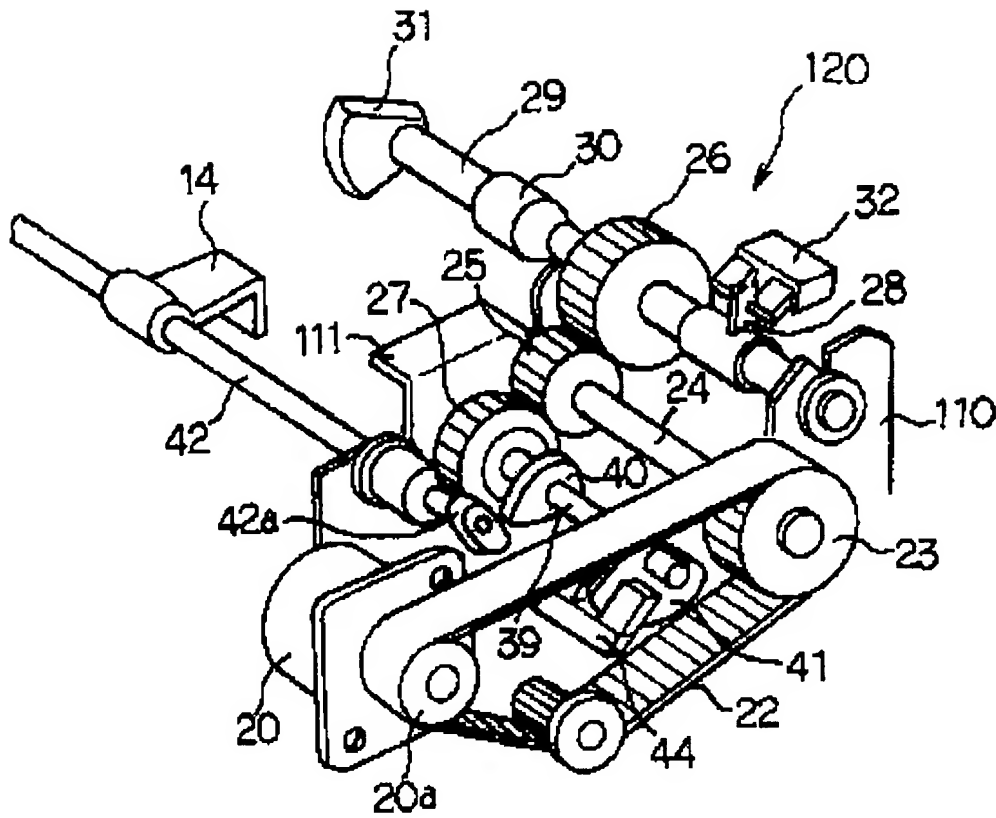


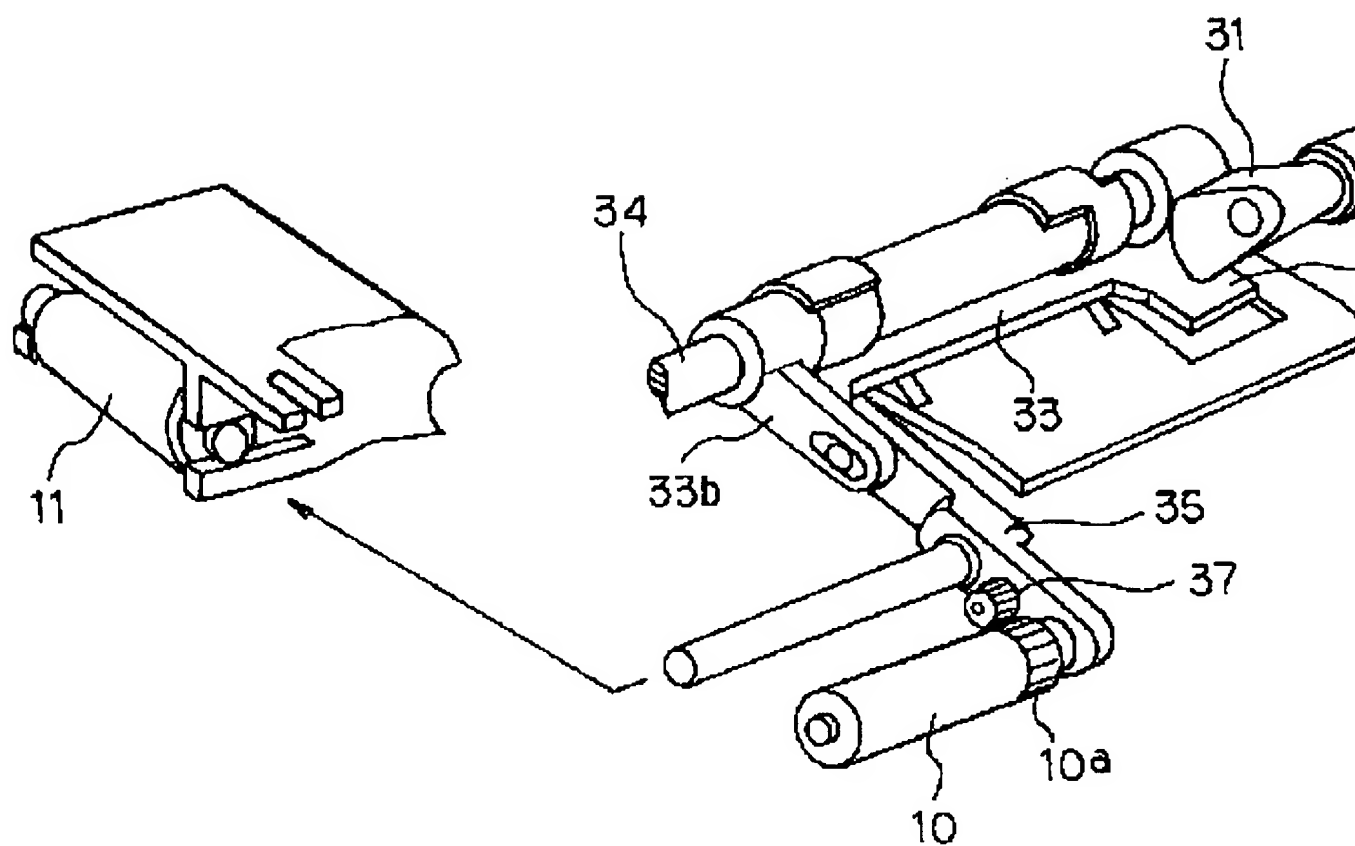




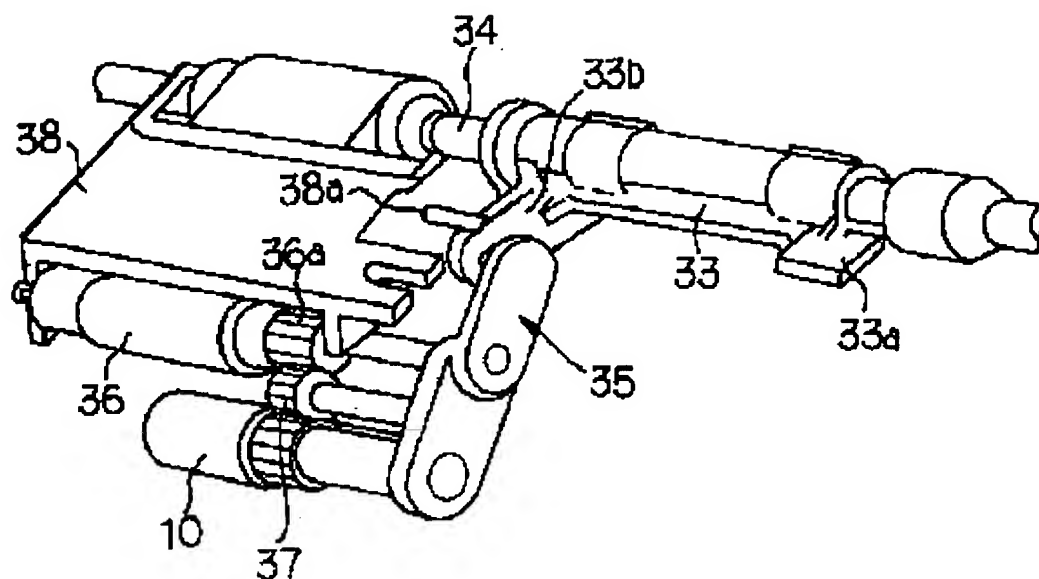




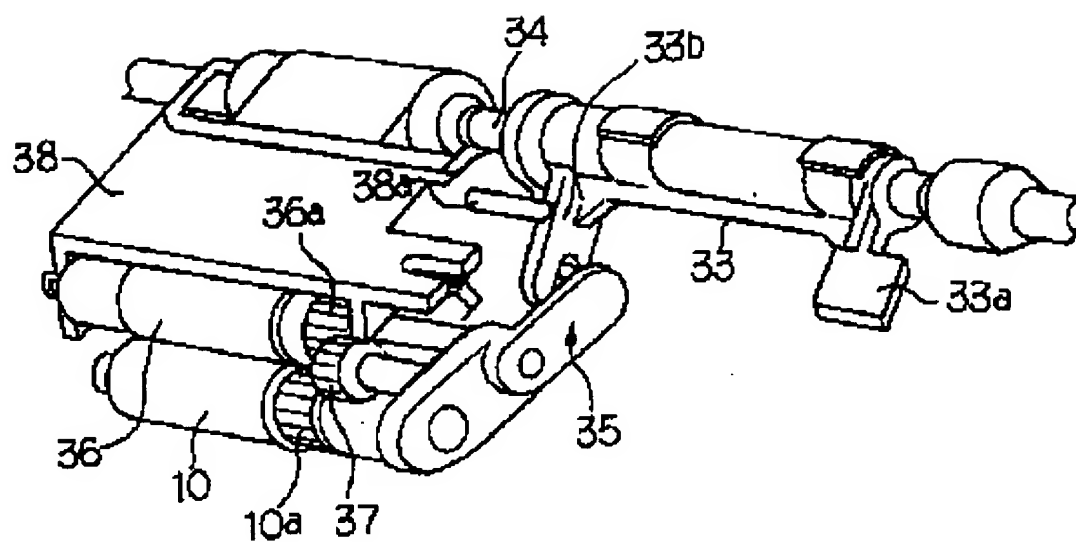




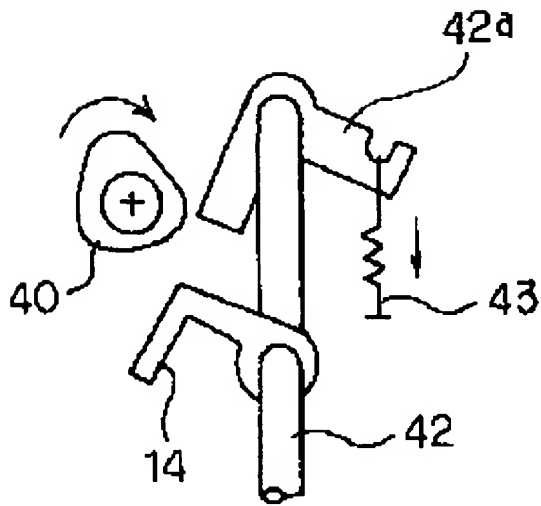
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